

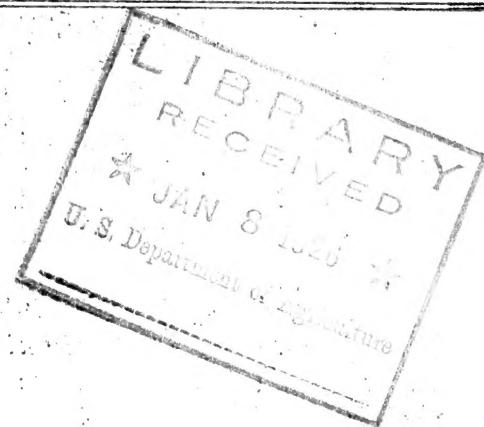
Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

9
86
MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Number 139

November, 1925



CHARLES WALTER MINOTT

Charles Walter Minott, of the Gipsy Moth and Brown-tail Moth Investigations, Bureau of Entomology, died at his home in Melrose Highlands on the morning of November 28. He was on duty November 10, with three other members of the Gipsy Moth force. They had just completed the observations at one of the "observation points" in Marshfield, Mass., and had returned to their car, when Mr. Minott's companions noticed that he was having difficulty in putting on his coat. He could not speak, and his right side seemed paralyzed. He was helped into the car and rushed to a physician in Brockton, who advised moving him at once to his home at Melrose Highlands. Although he was conscious at times, he never spoke again.

Mr. Minott was born at Westminister, Mass., April 1, 1859. He graduated from the Massachusetts Agricultural College with the class of 1883, receiving the degree of B. S., and was connected with the Vermont Experiment Station, at Burlington, for several years. He has been associated with the Gipsy Moth work most of the time since 1892, and with the Bureau of Entomology since October 3, 1911. Since the time of his appointment with the Bureau he has been particularly interested in the various factors causing natural increase or decrease of the gipsy moth in the field. He also made some special investigations on the effect of the gipsy moth infestations on cranberry bogs, publishing his results in 1922.

He was an active member of the American Association of Economic Entomologists, and presented at the 1924-25 meetings of this association a very interesting paper on "Some Results of the Defoliation of Trees," prepared by himself and I. T. Guild, of the Gipsy Moth Investigations.

Mr. Minott was a clean-living and lovable man. His associates have lost an affectionate friend, and the moth work one of its oldest members, both in years and in length of service.

VISITS FROM FOREIGN INVESTIGATORS

In December three entomologists from foreign countries have been studying in the Bureau its methods of organization and research, and certain problems corresponding to problems existing in their own countries. These are Dr. Stepan Soudek, Assistant Professor of Zoology in the University of Brno, Czechoslovakia, Dr. V. V. Nikolsky, of the Moscow Tropical Institute, and Prof. Kota Monzen, of the Imperial College of Agriculture and Forestry at Morioka, Japan.

Mrs. O. A. Merritt Hawkes, of Birmingham, England, also spent some days in the Bureau, seeking for information concerning Coccinellidae and the Ailanthus silkworm, which she is studying in connection with certain problems of heredity.

FOREST INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

F. C. Craighead, Entomologist, in Charge

In the latter part of November Dr. Craighead and Mr. St. George spent four days at Asheville, N. C., examining several sample plots and cages which were established last summer. It was found that the southern pine beetle had completed five generations in this vicinity between April 15 and October 15. Several local outbreaks which developed in the latter part of the summer have now completely died out; probably because of the resumption of normal precipitation in the latter part of September and in October. Although an enormous number of beetles emerged during this period, no new trees were attacked except three on an experimental plot, from which rain had been excluded by canvas covering. What happens to the enormous number of emerging beetles under these circumstances, and where they are breeding during periods between epidemics, are still mysteries.

H. J. MacAloney reported at Washington the latter part of November, and will spend several weeks here studying past records of the white-pine weevil and its parasites. He reports considerable progress on this project, which is being financed by private owners of timberland.

Field activities are quiet at the western stations. The men have returned to their winter quarters to work up reports on various projects. Mr. Keen reports that last spring's control operations in the region about Klamath Falls have given remarkably good results, although carried out in the face of a rising infestation. Plans for a large control project in the San Bernardino Mountains recreational area are being developed by private owners and the State Forester of California, in cooperation with the Palo Alto station. Because of phenomenal development of summer homes in this region, the barkbeetle losses in yellow and Jeffrey pine are regarded as most serious. The plan proposed contemplates the complete eradication of the western pine beetle from this area, which is completely isolated from other timber belts.

TAXONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS

S. A. Rohwer, Entomologist, in Charge

Dr. Francis M. Root, of Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene, recently visited the Division of Insects for consultation relating to work on mosquitoes.

Dr. John Harper, of the United States Naval Academy, recently consulted with specialists in the Division of Insects. He is particularly interested in mosquitoes.

John D. Sherman, Jr., publisher, of Mt. Vernon, N. Y., recently spent a week in Washington, frequently visiting the Division of Insects. Mr. Sherman is very much interested in all the branches of entomology.

Mrs. E. W. Rorer, of Ecuador, who has contributed many interesting South American specimens to the collection, recently called at the Division of Insects for a short time and consulted with Dr. Schaus and other lepidopterists.

Dr. W. J. Holland, formerly Director of the Carnegie Museum, was a recent visitor to the Division of Insects.

Dr. H. M. Loomis, of the National Canning Association, recently visited the Division of Insects to have assistance in identifying some cockroaches which were found in canned pineapple from Hawaii.

At the last meeting of the Entomological Society Dr. Böving gave an interesting paper on the condition of the entomological collections in the museum at Copenhagen, Denmark.

Dr. Joseph Bequaert, of the Harvard Medical School, recently spent about a week in the Division of Insects, studying various Diptera, especially horse-flies and certain groups of social Hymenoptera.

Dr. H. B. Johnston, of the Wellcome Laboratories, Khartoum, Sudan, recently visited the Museum for a consultation with members of the entomological staff regarding parasites of cotton insects and other insect pests of Africa. Dr. Johnston intends to spend several weeks in the United States, visiting different entomological laboratories of the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of studying methods of propagating parasitic insects. It is his intention to attend the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to be held in Kansas City.

Dr. Stepan Soudek, assistant, Zoological Institut of the College of Agriculture and Forestry, Brno, Czechoslovakia, was a recent visitor to the Museum. On November 19 he was the guest of a party of entomologists consisting of Dr. T. E. Snyder, Dr. J. M. Aldrich, Dr. A. Böving, Dr. H. E. Ewing, R. A. Cushman, H. S. Barber, W. S. Fisher, C. T. Greene, and R. C. Shannon, at Plummers Island, Md., the Field Club of Washington Biologists. Dr. Soudek took great interest in all the phases of nature and asked many questions, most of which could be answered readily by one or another member of the party.

STORED-PRODUCT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

E. A. Back, Entomologist in Charge

In the latter part of October Dr. Back was the guest of the International Fumigators, of Buffalo, at the fumigation of a large modern milling establishment at Detroit. Chloropicrin gas was used.

On November 4 A. O. Larson, in field charge of the Bean Weevil Investigations in California, gave at a convention of County Horticultural Commissioners, held in Sacramento, an interesting talk on the bean weevil situation in that State. On November 27 Dr. Howard received from Commissioner A. H. Call, of the California State Association of County Horticultural Commissioners, a resolution thanking Mr. Larson for his presentation of the subject and extending to the Federal Bureau the cooperation of the County Horticultural Commissioners. When expressing his appreciation of the action taken, Dr. Howard added "We feel sure that Mr. Larson has done an excellent piece of work and are very glad it meets with the approval of your County Commissioners."

In the past month, through the courtesy of the Office of Cereal Investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, Perez Simmons secured the use of an electric threshing machine for threshing about 400 samples of wheat heads collected during the wheat-harvesting period. These samples are the basis of important and interesting studies.

Dr. Back has been advised by Ralph F. Windoes, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Upholstered Furniture Manufacturers, that the Executive Committee of that organization has voted to pay Dr. Back's traveling expenses provided he would investigate conditions favorable or otherwise to the increase of tow insects. The tremendous increase of insects in tow during the past few years has become a matter of concern to the furniture trade and threatens certain American products. Psocids and tobacco and drug-store beetles are the primary pests involved. They develop in many instances in tremendous numbers in the vegetable material (particularly flax tow and Spanish moss) used in upholstering furniture.

C. K. Fisher is taking graduate work for the degree of master of science at the Riverside Branch of the University of California. His work is under the direction of Professors H. J. Quayle and H. S. Smith, and is based on a study of the life history and economic importance of two parasites of the Southern cowpea weevil, Bruchus quadrimaculatus Say. The parasites are Lariophagus distinguendus (Foerst.) and Aplastomorpha calandrae (How.).

The Retail Research Association of New York, controlled by an association of our largest retail establishments, inquired in a letter dated November 24 as to the progress of the Bureau's experiments with cold-storage temperatures as controls for storage pests.

In the past month a patented steel fumigating room, 6x8x10 feet in size, with exhaust fan and pipe to roof, has been installed in Building F. Although this equipment represents in part a gift from a large manufacturing

concern, the room will be used by the Bureau as an example of just such a tight room as has been advocated for years. This room has attracted much attention because of the present widespread interest in fumigating rooms on the part of warehousing concerns throughout the country. Practically all new up-to-date houses for the storage of household furnishings are being equipped with fumigating rooms. The latest firm to include such a room is the Atlas Storage Warehouse Company of Philadelphia, which has consulted the Bureau regarding the installation of a fumigating room in its half-million-dollar structure now being completed.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

W. H. Larrimer, Entomologist, in Charge

L. H. Worthley and D. J. Caffrey visited Washington October 29 for a conference with Bureau officials on the European corn borer work.

C. M. Packard attended the Farm Bureau meeting held at Lancaster, Calif., on November 19, for the purpose of discussing the alfalfa aphid situation. He reports a very excellent and well-attended meeting of the farmers in the Antelope Valley.

Dr. W. J. Phillips visited Washington on November 13 for consultation with Bureau and Museum officials.

W. R. Walton visited Arlington, Mass., on November 13 and 14 for an informal conference with the investigators conducting the work on the European corn borer.

C. C. Hill and H. D. Smith recently surveyed nine wheat-growing counties in eastern and middle Pennsylvania for Hessian-fly infestation in the young wheat. Infestation was found to be very light throughout the area examined.

Cecil W. Creel, formerly in charge of the Cereal and Forage Insect Laboratory at Forest Grove, Oreg., and now Director of Extension, University of Nevada, visited the Forest Grove Laboratory on November 4.

E. E. Russell, in charge of the Chalcis fly investigations at the sub-station at Yuma, Ariz., spent a few days in the middle of November in consultation with V. L. Wildermuth at the Tempe Laboratory.

In the first week in November E. V. Walter, of the Tempe Laboratory, made a survey trip through southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico, investigating the present status of the southwestern corn borer. The only new infestation found was in a low region of hills west of Tucson, Ariz., where the insect made a 25-mile jump, giving an entirely new infestation. The damage, in known infested areas, however, was much more severe this year than in years past.

TRUCK-CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

J. E. Graf, Entomologist, in Charge

Mrs. Doris H. Blake, of the Washington office, has returned to duty after an extended European trip, a large portion of which was devoted to the comparison of entomological specimens in the various European Museums. Upon her return to this country she visited the Museum at Cambridge, Mass., where additional work was undertaken.

J. E. Graf recently returned from a short trip to Florida. At Gainesville he conferred with Dr. Newell and other officials of the State Plant Board. At Sanford he met Dr. Ball, Dr. Lathrop, Mr. Foster, Mr. Boyden, and others interested in the control of the celery leaf tyer, and plans were discussed for the control of this injurious insect and serious menace to the celery industry in Florida. He also conferred with Mr. Boyden regarding the work in Florida for the eradication of the sweet-potato weevil.

F. H. Lathrop, entomologist, of Deciduous Fruit Insect Investigations, who is working in Maine on the blueberry maggot, has been temporarily assigned by Dr. Quaintance to duties at Sanford, Fla. Besides work on fruit flies, he will conduct research investigations on the celery leaf tyer, in cooperation with Dr. Ball and others.

Plans are now under way for the transfer of the main Mexican bean beetle laboratory from Birmingham, Ala., to Columbus, Ohio. N. F. Howard, in charge, will be located at the Ohio State University.

K. L. Cockerham, Biloxi, Miss., attended a meeting of the Alabama State Board of Agriculture, at Montgomery, on November 5. New regulations, and other matters pertaining to the local campaign against the sweet-potato weevil, were discussed. Besides the regular members of the Board, representatives of farmers' organizations and of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad were present.

The present situation concerning the sweet-potato weevil in Pearl River and Hancock Counties, Miss., is exceptionally good. Heavy frosts have occurred; harvesting is under way and will be completed in about two weeks. The yield of sweet potatoes is good.

K. L. Cockerham, Biloxi, Miss., recently visited the Mississippi A. & M. College, where he conferred with officials of the State Plant Board regarding field work for the fall and winter months.

T. C. Johnson, Director of the Virginia Truck Experiment Station, at Norfolk, recently visited this office and discussed prospective measures for preventing the spread of the potato tuber-moth on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

E. G. Smyth, a former employee of this office, now engaged in work on parasites of the Mexican bean beetle, was a recent visitor to Washington.

S. E. Flanders, connected with the Walnut Growers' Association, Saticoy, Calif., has been appointed Agent and will conduct investigations on the lima-bean pod borer in Ventura County, Calif., in cooperation with Mr. Campbell.

H. H. P. Severin, Professor of Entomology, University of California, a specialist on the sugar-beet leafhopper, has been appointed collaborator and will cooperate with Bureau officials in California in work on this insect.

J. H. Montgomery, of the Florida State Plant Board, stopped off at Washington while en route from California to Gainesville, Fla. After conferring with Bureau officials he accompanied J. E. Graf on the latter's trip South.

BEE CULTURE INVESTIGATIONS

James I. Hambleton, Apiculturist, in Charge

E. L. Sechrist has returned from a two months' trip devoted to visiting the principal western comb-honey centers. His mission was to obtain first-hand data on which to base comb-honey grading rules which will be applicable in every region of the country. An investigation was made of comb-honey in warehouses of both producers and dealers. Mr. Sechrist's itinerary included Chicago, Milwaukee, Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City, Sacramento, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and points in Wyoming and Montana.

Professor Doctor Y. Tokuda, in charge of bee-culture at the Imperial Zootechnical Experimental Station at Chiba, Japan, was a recent visitor at the Bee Culture Laboratory. Doctor Tokuda is known for his work on the native Japanese honeybee, a species of Apis indica, and also for his work on poisonous honeys of Japan. On his present tour he has visited apicultural leaders in various countries of Europe, and wishes to become familiar with apicultural conditions in this country.

GIPSY MOTH AND BROWN-TAIL MOTH INVESTIGATIONS

A. F. Burgess, Senior Entomologist, In Charge

Gipsy moth scouting work in the Barrier Zone strip was greatly retarded during the month of November, as it was necessary to transfer a large number of men for Christmas-tree inspection.

All the scouting work planned for the fiscal year 1926 in the Vermont portion of the Barrier Zone strip has been completed, with the exception of the township of Burlington, which will be scouted during the winter months, and the township of Essex, which is being scouted at the present time. No new egg clusters were located, and the infestations found at Alburgh, Charlotte, Ferrisburg, Fairfield, Salisbury, Castleton and Bennington in the fiscal year 1924, and those located at Leicester, Benson, and Pownal, in the fiscal year 1925, have apparently been cleaned up, no new egg clusters being located in this scouting season in any of the previously-infested towns just mentioned. Danby, Fair Haven, and Essex, Vt., are reinfested this year, single infestations being located at Danby and Fair Haven. The scouting around the infestation at Essex has not been completed, but there will very likely be more than 100 new egg masses at this colony. Only a small proportion of the work planned in the New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut portion of the Barrier Zone for the fiscal year 1926 has been completed.

FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

A. L. Quaintance, Associate Chief of Bureau, in Charge

Dr. Alvah Peterson visited the Fort Valley, Ga., laboratory on November 12 and 13 to familiarize himself with peach-insect problems in the South. He was especially interested in the life-history and habits of the oriental peach moth under Southern conditions, since he has had under way in New Jersey considerable work with this pest.

Oliver I. Snapp was the speaker on Agricultural Day at the Thomaston, Ga., fair on November 11. A crowd of several hundred peach growers and others heard his address on the control of peach insects.

Howard Baker, Junior Entomologist, who has been associated with E. H. Siegler, at Sligo, Md., in connection with insecticide investigations, has resigned from the Bureau to accept a position with the American Cyanamid Company, with headquarters in Florida.

LIBRARY

Mabel Colcord, Librarian

NEW BOOKS

Amans, Paul.

Exposition d'Ixelles (18-19-20 Octobre 1924). Concours 156.

Rapports scientifiques entre le vol de l'abeille et la navigation aérienne... Bruxelles, Imprimerie des travaux publics G. Terneus, 1925. 46 pp., illus.

Böhme, R. E.

Über den Farbensinn und den Geruchsinn der Honig Bee (*Apis mellifica*). Wurzen, G. Jacob, 1924.

Campbell, C. A. R.

Bats, mosquitoes and dollars. Boston, Stratford Company, 1925. 262 pp., illus.

Curran, C. H.

The American species of the tachinid genus *Peleteria* Desv. (Diptera.) Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada, ser. 3, vol. 19, pp. 225-257, 2 pls. 1925.

Davis, K. C.

Productive plant husbandry; a text-book for high schools...

Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1925. 462 pp. illus. Ed. 3.

DuPuy, W. A.

Our insect friends and foes. Introduction by Leland O. Howard.

Philadelphia, J. C. Winston company, 1925. 275 pp., illus. (Romance of science series.)

Fox, Carroll.

Insects and disease of man. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1925. 349 pp., illus.

Gibson, Arthur.

Observations on the spruce budworm. Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada, ser. 3, vol. 19, pp. 195-205, 3 pls. 1925.

Haworth, W. E., and Edwards, F. W.

Mosquitoes and coconut palms; a mosquito survey of palm trees in East Africa and the problems resulting therefrom; with an appendix describing two new species of mosquitoes from coconut palms in East Africa. Trans. Roy. Soc. Trop. Med. and Hyg., vol. 18, pp. 162-193, 4 pls. 1924-25.

Holland, W. J., and Schaus, William.

The Epipaschiinae of the western hemisphere; a synonymic catalog of the species hitherto described, with figures of many which have not heretofore been depicted. Ann. Carnegie Mus., vol. XVI, pp. 49-130, July 31, 1925.

Newstead, Robert, Evans, A. M., and Potts, W. H.

Guide to the study of tsetse-flies. London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1924. 332 pp., 28 pls., 4 maps.

Neiva, Arthur, Navarro de Andrade, Ed., and Telles, A. Q.

Instrucoes para o combate á broca do café. S. Paulo, 1924. 15 pp.; pls., map. (Secretaria da agricultura, commercio e oras publicas. Servico de defesa do cafe. Publicacao N. 3.) Stephanoderes caffaeae.

Ohio State Horticultural Society.

Special spraying bulletin. Columbus, O., F. J. Heer Printing Co., 1924. 19 pp.

Rayment, Tarlton.

Profitable honey plants of Australasia. Melbourne, Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd. 1925. 132 pp.

Peets, Elbert.

Practical tree repair... rev. ed. New York, Robert M. McBride & Company, 1925. 270 pp., illus. Broting insects and their control, pp. 52-70.

Sonan, Jinhaku.

Insect pests of the tea plant in Formosa. Taihoku, Formosa, Published by the Institute, 1924. 132 pp., 3 pls., 2 fold., tables. (Dept. of Agr. Gov't Research Inst. Formosa, Japan, Report No. 12.)

Sorauer, P. K. M.

Handbuch der pflanzenkrankheiten. Ed. 4. Vol. 4. Berlin, Paul Parey, 1925. Contents: Tierische Schädlinge an Nutzpflanzen 1. t. Untermittwirkung von Dr. H. Blunck u. a. heuarb. von Dr. L. Reh.

Soudek, Stepan.

Mravenci soustava, změpisné rozšíření, oekologie a urcovací klic mravenců žijících na území Československé republiky. Praha, Nakladem Československé Společnosti Entomologické, 1922. 98 pp., illus. (Entomologické příručky číslo 11.) Ants, systematic, geographical distribution, etc.

Wasmann, Erich.

Die ameisenminikry. Berlin, Gebrüder Borntraeger, 1925. 164 pp. (Abhandlungen zur theoretischen Biologie hrsg. von Prof. Dr. Julius Schaxel... hft. 13.) "Literaturverzeichnis," pp. 136-142.

Whitefield, E. G. S.

Relation between the feeding-habits and the structure of the mouth-parts in the Asilidae (Diptera). Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1925, Part II, pp. 599-638, pls. I-II. Bibliography, pp. 636-638.

Woglum, R. S.

The value of sprays and fumigation for resistant black scale; and analysis based on conditions in Eastern Los Angeles and Western San Bernardino counties. Los Angeles, 1925. 20 pp., illus. At head of title: California Fruit Growers' Exchange.